

**Department of Historic Resources**  
**Reconnaissance Level Survey**

**Accomack**

**DHR Id#: 001-0027-0117**

**Resource Identification**

Property Name(s): ..... WFF # Y-040 Propellant Shop {Current}  
Property Date: ..... 1950  
Address(s): ..... Island Road {Current}  
County/Independent City: Accomack  
Vicinity of: ..... Chincoteague  
State, Zip: ..... Virginia 23337  
USGS Quad Name: ..... WALLOPS ISLAND  
Surrounding area: ..... Rural

**National Register Eligibility Status**

Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Property has not been evaluated

**Resource Description**

Ownership Status: ..... Public - Federal  
Acreage: ..... 0.5

**Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:**

| <u>Component</u>  | <u>Comp Type/Form</u>          | <u>Material</u> | <u>Material Treatment</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Chimneys          | Chimneys - Interior stove flue | Metal           |                           |
| Foundation        | Foundation - Slab              | Concrete        | Foundation - Poured       |
| Porch             | Porch - None                   |                 |                           |
| Roof              | Roof - Flat                    |                 | Roof - Not visible        |
| Structural System | Structural System - Masonry    | Concrete        |                           |
| Windows           | Windows - Fixed                | Aluminum        | Windows - 1/1             |

Site Description: ..... Located on the west side of Island Road on Wallops Island in a flat, level area to the east of Y-45 Igniter Magazine (001-0027-0118).

**WUZIT Count:**

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Wuzit Types</u> | <u>Historic?</u> |
|------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1          | Shop               |                  |

**NR Resource Count:**

**Individual Resource Information**

WUZIT: ..... Shop

|  |                           |                                   |            |                |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| <u>Est. Date of Construction:</u> .... | 1952 {Owner/written data} | <u>Accessed?</u> .....            | No         | Not accessible |
| <u>Primary Resource?</u> .....         | Yes                       | <u>Number of Stories:</u> .....   | 1.0        |                |
| <u>Architectural Style:</u> .....      | Other                     | <u>Condition:</u> .....           | Good-Fair  |                |
| <u>Interior Plan Type:</u> .....       | Other                     | <u>Threats to Resource:</u> ..... | None Known |                |

**Description:** The building has a poured concrete slab foundation and both sections have a flat roof; the roof materials are not visible. The concrete walls are incised with two horizontal lines that create three panels; the center panel is slightly recessed from the surrounding two. Window and door openings have been blocked in on the south, east and west elevations. Windows for the building are fixed one-over-one aluminum sash. An aluminum roll top door on the north elevation has a concrete panel that rises roughly four feet and divides the opening in half, flanked by a steel door to the west that is centrally located in the shorter section. Similar doors are found on the other three elevations. Round aluminum vent caps project from the upper wall surfaces of the south and west elevations. The building has two adjoining rectangular sections, one of which, located to the east, is taller and larger than the other. The two sections are separated by a concrete block wall.

**Cemetery Information**

**Bridge Information**



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***National Register Eligibility Information***

*Historic Context(s):* ..... Technology/Engineering

*Historic Time Period(s):*..... S- The New Dominion (1941- Present)

*Significance Statement:* This one-story building was built in 1952 by NACA and was part of the second phase of permanent NACA construction efforts on Wallops Island. The building was originally used to prepare and modify igniters and as a work area for cutting or reshaping propellant grains used in small rocket motors. Located on Wallops Island on the west side of Island Road within a fenced area, it is now part of WFF and is currently used as storage. The building is located directly across Island Road from Blockhouse #2 (001-0027-0115, WFF# Y-030) and Launch Area #2 (001-0027-0116, WFF# Y-035). The Igniter Magazine (001-0027-0118, WFF# Y-045) is directly to the west; a flat, open area containing testing/receiving equipment surrounds the building to the south.

The building is associated with a technology/engineering property type built during the New Dominion Period (1945 – present) period. The building was constructed as a component of a rocket research facility operated by the Pilotless Aircraft Research Station (PARS) under the direction of NACA from 1946 to 1958. Until becoming part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, PARS functioned as a rocket research facility that continually refined its capacity to collect aeronautic and scientific data through improvements in radar tracking, radio telemetry, and photographic techniques that provided significant data for the development of Cold War missile technology and manned spaceflight during the Space Race.

The Propellant Shop has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the demolition of many of the buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959), the removal of much of the historic fabric from the majority of extant buildings, and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

The resource is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D. It does not by itself sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with events in order to be eligible under Criterion A, nor does it sufficiently embody a quality of significance associated with a person in order to be eligible under Criterion B. While the resource retains its location, setting and association, alterations to the building have adversely affected its integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling, including the in-fill of original openings and the replacement of original windows and doors. Therefore the resource is not eligible under Criterion C as it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. This property does not have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory under Criterion D.

***Bibliographic Documentation***

*Reference #:* 1

*Bibliographic RecordType:* ..... Book

*Author:* ..... Joseph Adams Shortal

*Citation Abbreviation:* .....

*Notes:* ..... Shortal, Joseph Adams. "A New Dimension—Wallops Island Flight Test Range: The First Fifteen Years." National Aeronautics and Space Administration Scientific and Technical Information Office: 1978.

***Ownership Information***



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***Graphic Media Documentation***

| <i>Medium</i> | <i>Depository ID #</i> | <i>Photo Depository</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>File Name</i> |
|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 35MM B&W      | 21540                  | DHR                     | 2004/07/99  | Frames 1-4       |

***Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events***

*CRM Event # 1,*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Cultural Resource Management Event: .....</i>   | Reconnaissance Survey  |
| <i>Date: .....</i>                                 | 2004/07/99   |
| <i>Organization or Person: .....</i>               | URS Group  |
| <i>VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: ..</i> | 2003-0571  |
| <i>CRM Event Notes or Comments: .....</i>          | 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101<br>Gaithersburg, MD 20878 |

*CRM Event # 2,*

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Cultural Resource Management Event: .....</i>   | Reconnaissance Survey                                  |
| <i>Date: .....</i>                                 | 2003/08/08   |
| <i>Organization or Person: .....</i>               | URS Group  |
| <i>VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: ..</i> | 2003-0571  |
| <i>CRM Event Notes or Comments: .....</i>          | 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700<br>Bethesda, MD 20814 |